(iii) Police forces of concerned States are extending help and cooperation to control the poaching problem.

(iv) The existing staff engaged in antipoaching activities are being strengthened. For this purpose tribal trackers have been engaged.

(v) Improvement in the communication system with the help of telephone and wireless network has been arranged.

(vi) Patrol Guards are being suitably armed.

(vii) To assist the States in their efforts to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, a new centrally sponsored scheme has been started. The scheme envisages equal sharing of the non-recurring cost between the Central and State Governments.

(viii) The Central Wildlife Division is being strengthened.

(ix) The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 1986 has laid down that dealers in imported ivory for trade and manufacture will also require a licence. No such lincenses will be given for Indian ivory.

Scheme of the National Information Centre for Computer Network

975. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the scheme formulated by the National Information Centre to assist Ministries and Government Departments in organising and developing information;

(b) whether various States are also proposed to be covered by the network of computers; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN)

(a) The Government of India has set up the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in the Department of Electronics for assisting Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in organising and developing information systems. In pursuance of this, NIC instals the necessary computer hardware, develops the required computer software, develops and maintains databases, assists in computer-aided analysis of data and gives training to Government officials and staff in computer and system analysis methods.

During the first phase, NIC installed 25 computers in various Government buildings in Delhi connected to a large host computer in the form of a network. It developed more than 150 databases for the Central Government Departments.

In the second phase, NIC is establishing local Area Network with PC/XT and PC/ATs in user Departments.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Under the expansion of computerisation programme of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) a Satellite Based Government Informatics Network (NICNET) is being established to cover all States & districts in the country. As a part of this network, super/large computers are being installed at Delhi, Pune, Bhubaneshwar and Hyderabad. In addition the network will have mini/super minicomputers installed in the State capitals and some other important cities. It is also proposed to instal the computing facilities at the district level. All the districts will be connected using Micro Earth Stations.

Wild life sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh

976. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for development of a wild life sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):